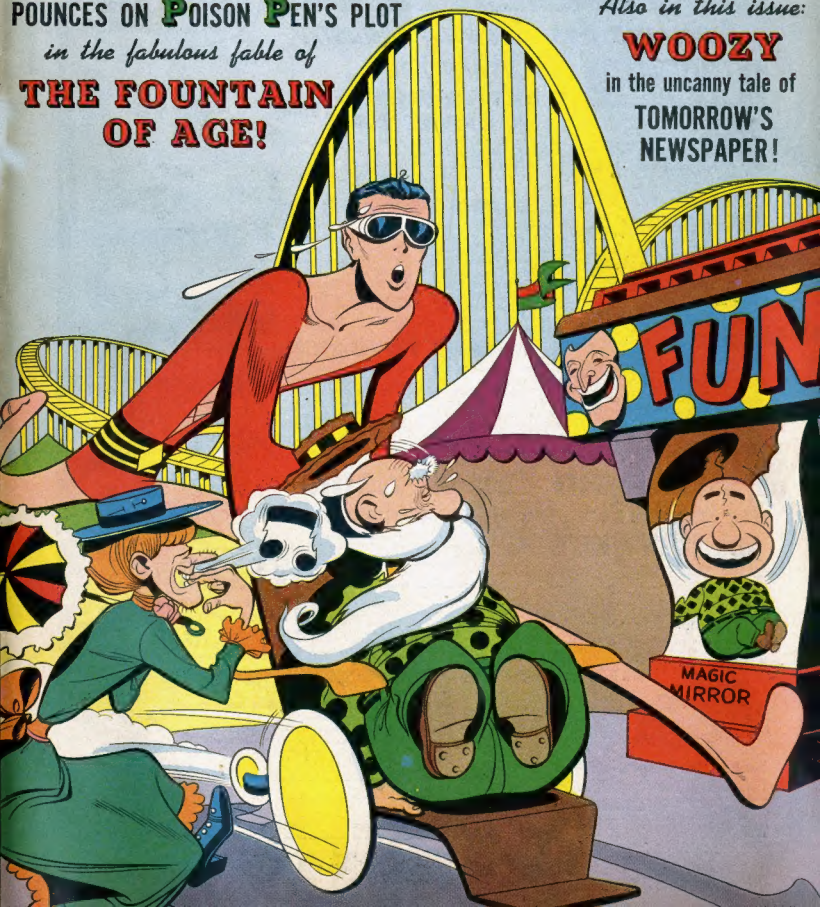
QUALITY COMIC PUBLICATION
10¢
MAY No.23

PLASTIC MAN

POUNCES ON POISON PEN'S PLOT
in the fabulous fable of
THE FOUNTAIN OF AGE!

Also in this issue:
WOOZY
in the uncanny tale of
TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER!



BE A SUCCESS AS A RADIO-TELEVISION TECHNICIAN

TWO FREE BOOKS SHOW HOW MAIL COUPON

America's Fast Growing Industry Offers You...

I TRAINED THESE MEN AT HOME

OWNS SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS
"Today I am considered an expert Radio-Television Technician. I have four employees working in my shop. Repair business has doubled."—PAUL MILLER, Toledo, Ohio.

RADIO ENGINEER ABC NETWORK
"4 years ago, I was a bookkeeper with a hand-to-mouth salary. Now I am a Radio Engineer with key station of the ABC network."—NORMAN H. WARD, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey.

$3 TO $10 WEEK IN SPARE TIME
"While learning, made $5 to $10 a week in spare time. Now have a spare time shop in my home and earn as high as $25 a week."—LEANDER ARNOLD, Pontiac, Michigan.

SERVICING BUSINESS PROFITABLE
"For the past two years, I have been operating my own Servicing business. Net profit, $6,850. N.R.I. training made it possible."—PHILIP G. BROGAN, Louisville, Kentucky.

GETS FIRST JOB THROUGH N.R.I.
"My first job, with KDLR, was obtained for me by your Graduate Service Dept. Am now Chief Engineer, Police Radio Station WQOX."—T. S. NORTON, Hamilton, Ohio.

SEES PROFIT IN RADIO-TELEVISION
"I am operating my own Radio Sales and Service business. With FM and Television, we are looking forward to a very profitable future."—ALBERT PATRICK, Tampa, Florida.

SPARE TIME SERVICE PAYS WELL
"Work only in spare time at Radio and average about $40 a month. Knew nothing about Radio before enrolling with N.R.I."—SAMUEL T. DEWALD, St. Clair, Pennsylvania.

1. EXTRA MONEY IN SPARE TIME

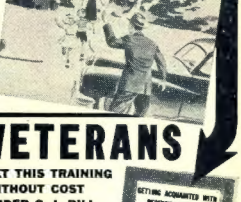
As part of my servicing course, I send you SPECIAL BOOKLETS starting the day you enroll that show how you can make $5, $10 or more a week EXTRA fixing neighbors' Radios in spare time while learning. Tester you build with parts I send helps.

2. GOOD PAY JOB

Your next step is a good job installing and servicing Radio-Television sets, or becoming boss of your own Radio-Television Sales and Service Shop, or getting a good job in a Broadcasting Station. In 1945, there were 943 Radio Stations. Today, about 2,700 are on the air! Result—thousands of qualified men stepped into good jobs. Then add developments in FM, Two-Way Radio, Police, Aviation, Marine, Micro-wave Relay Radio. Think what this means! New jobs, more jobs, good pay for qualified men.

3. BRIGHT FUTURE

And think of the opportunities in Television. Only 19 Stations were on the air in 1947. Today, more than fifty. And the experts say there will be over 1,000 within three years. Manufacturers are producing over 100,000 Television sets a month. Be a successful Radio-Television Operator or Technician . . . get in line for success and a bright future in America's fastest-growing industry!



I Will Train You at Home

You Practice Servicing or Communications with MANY KITS

I've trained hundreds of men with no previous experience to be successful TECHNICIANS. I will train you, too. Or now you can enroll for my NEW practical course in Radio-Television Communications. Train for your FCC operator's or technician's license. You learn Radio-Television theory from clear, illustrated lessons in my tested home study courses.

As part of both my Servicing and Communications course, I send you MANY KITS of modern equipment that "bring to life" theory you learn. Building circuits, conducting experiments with them, introducing and repairing defects, gives you valuable, practical experience. (Some of the equipment you get is shown below.) Everything I send is yours to keep.

Mail Coupon for Books FREE

Coupon entitles you to ACTUAL LESSON on Radio Servicing with many pictures and diagrams plus my 64-page book, "HOW TO BE A SUCCESS IN RADIO-TELEVISION" both FREE. See what my graduates are doing and earning. Send coupon today. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. ODA4, National Radio Institute, Pioneer Home Study Radio School, Washington 9, D. C.

VETERANS

GET THIS TRAINING WITHOUT COST UNDER G. I. BILL. MAIL COUPON NOW.

You Build This MODERN RADIO

As part of my Servicing course, I send you speaker, tubes, chassis, loop antenna, transformer, EVERYTHING you need to build this modern Radio. Use it to conduct many valuable tests and practice servicing. It's yours to keep.

You Build This TRANSMITTER

As part of my New Communications course, I send parts to build this low-power broadcasting Transmitter that shows how to put a station "on the air." Perform procedures demanded of Broadcast Station operators, conduct many tests, experiments. It's yours to keep.

Good for Both—FREE

MR. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. ODA3
National Radio Institute, Washington 9, D. C.

Mail me Sample Lesson and 64-page Book about How to Win Success in Radio-Television—both FREE. (No salesman will call. Please write plainly.)

Name.....Age.....

Address.....

City.....Zone.....State.....

☐ **Check if Veteran** **Approved Under G. I. Bill**

PLASTIC MAN, May, 1950, No. 23. Published bi-monthly by Comic Magazines, 8 Lord Street, Buffalo, N. Y. Executive Offices, 578 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn. Everett M. Arnold, General Manager. Harry Stein, Editor. Elaine Allen, Gloria Bley, Alfred Grenet, Associate Editors. Entered as 2nd class matter Nov. 21, 1945 at the Post Office, Buffalo, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879. The characters and events pictured herein are entirely fictitious. The Publisher accepts no responsibility for unsolicited material. Editorial and Advertising Offices, 25 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y. **Copyright 1950 by Comic Magazines. Printed in U. S. A.**

Plastic Man
PONCE DE LEON'S FABLED FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH! WHAT A RESPONSIVE CHORD THAT STRIKES IN ALL OF US, FOR WHO DOES NOT WISH TO REMAIN ETERNALLY YOUNG? BUT WHEN POISON PEN PULLMAN REDISCOVERS THE MAGICAL FOUNTAIN, PLASTIC MAN FINDS HE HAS TO MOVE FAST TO WARD OFF SOME FANCY SKULL-DUGGERY!

CENTURIES AGO PONCE DE LEON, THE FAMED SPANISH EXPLORER, WENT LOOKING FOR THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH! BUT HISTORY DOES NOT RECORD THAT HE FOUND IT, AND THIS IS WHY---
SEAL IT UP WITH ROCKS! LET NO MORTAL EYES EVER LOOK UPON IT AGAIN!

GOOD FRIEND! THE ACCURSED FOUNTAIN WILL CLAIM NO MORE VICTIMS! I SHALL TELL EVERY-ONE THAT WE FAILED IN OUR QUEST!
YES, MASTER! IT IS BETTER THAT WAY!

And SO THE FABULOUS FOUNTAIN REMAINED LOST TO HISTORY FOR CENTURIES, FORGOTTEN TO ALL BUT LEGEND...

UNTIL...
FASTER, YOU IDIOT! PLASTIC MAN'S IN THAT CAR!
POLICE

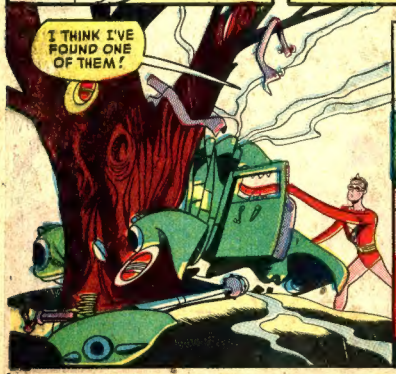
I'M PUSHING THE PEDAL THROUGH THE FLOOR NOW, POISON PEN!
OHHH! IF I EVER GET OUT OF THIS, I'LL NEVER THINK UP ANOTHER BLACK-MAIL SCHEME AS LONG AS I LIVE!

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO MAIL THAT BLACKMAIL LETTER FROM ANOTHER STATE! THAT MADE IT A FEDERAL MATTER--- AND BROUGHT PLASTIC MAN INTO THE CASE! SIGH GUNS WON'T HELP AGAINST HIM!

DID YOU DROP SOMETHING? THIS GUN, FOR INSTANCE?
EEEK!

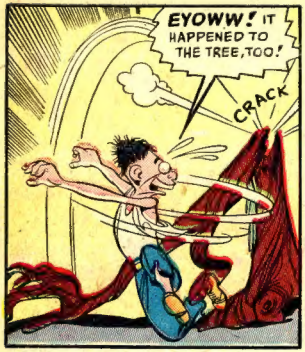
GIMME THAT WHEEL!
LOOK OUT!

KRASSSHH!
HMM! I MUST HAVE STARTLED THEM MORE THAN I INTENDED TO!


I THINK I'VE FOUND ONE OF THEM!

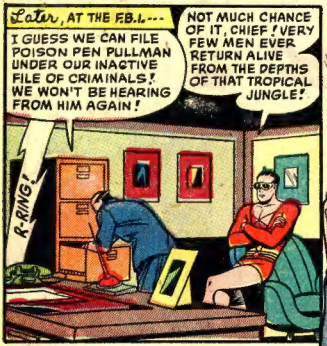
WELL, WELL! SOMEWHAT THE WORSE FOR WEAR, BUT THEY'LL FIX YOU UP AT THE PRISON HOSPITAL!
GROAN I HAVEN'T GOT A SOUND BONE LEFT IN MY BODY!

BUT WHERE'S POISON PEN PULLMAN? HE WASN'T IN THE WRECK!
HE MUST'VE BEEN THROWN CLEAR WHEN WE BANGED INTO THAT TREE! YOU'LL NEVER FIND HIM NOW!
I'M NOT SO SURE! WE'LL SEARCH THIS TROPICAL JUNGLE WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB! AT LEAST WE'LL GO AS FAR AS WE CAN!
WELCOME!
HOURS LATER, DEEP IN AN UNEXPLORED PART OF THE JUNGLE---
WHAT A NIGHTMARE! IT'S A MIRACLE I'VE SURVIVED THIS LONG! QUICKSANDS--- RATTLESNAKES--- THORNS, LIKE KNIVES ON EVERY BUSH!
I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER! I CAN'T!
MOTHER ALWAYS TOLD ME CRIME DIDN'T PAY! OH--- HOW I WISH I COULD START OVER AGAIN--- AS AN HONEST MAN!
SOB-SOB-SOB
SLURP!
WATER! THAT'S WHAT I NEED! HUH?
YURRK!
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! HE KEELED OVER AND DIED OF OLD AGE--- A FEW SECONDS AFTER HE DRANK THE WATER!
PLUNK!
UGHH! TO THINK THAT I NEARLY DRANK THE STUFF!

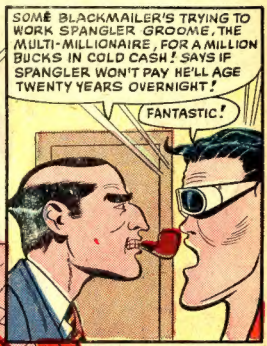

EYOWW! IT HAPPENED TO THE TREE, TOO!
CRACK

NOW I GET IT! THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THAT OLD SPANIARD WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH! I'LL BET HE FOUND IT AFTER ALL! BUT IT WASN'T WHAT HE EXPECTED!

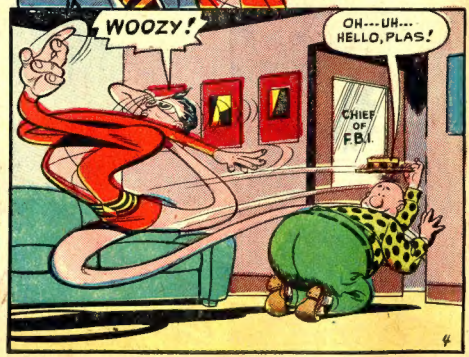
THERE'S SOME KIND OF CHEMICALS IN THE WATER THAT MAKES THINGS GET OLDER FAST! IT GIVES ME A WONDERFUL IDEA! I CAN START ALL OVER AGAIN --- WITH THE BEST BLACKMAIL STUNT I EVER HAD! HA-HA-HA!


Later, AT THE F.B.I. ---
I GUESS WE CAN FILE POISON PEN PULLMAN UNDER OUR INACTIVE FILE OF CRIMINALS! WE WON'T BE HEARING FROM HIM AGAIN!
NOT MUCH CHANCE OF IT, CHIEF! VERY FEW MEN EVER RETURN ALIVE FROM THE DEPTHS OF THAT TROPICAL JUNGLE!
R-RING!

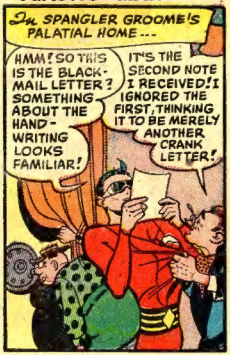
HELLO! WHAT? I'LL SEND PLASTIC MAN RIGHT OVER, SIR!
WHAT'S UP?


SOME BLACKMAILER'S TRYING TO WORK SPANGLER GROOME, THE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE, FOR A MILLION BUCKS IN COLD CASH! SAYS IF SPANGLER WON'T PAY HE'LL AGE TWENTY YEARS OVERNIGHT!
FANTASTIC!

SURE IT IS! BUT SINCE WHEN DO WE ARGUE WITH FRIGHTENED MULTI-MILLIONAIRES? GET GOING!
OKAY, CHIEF!

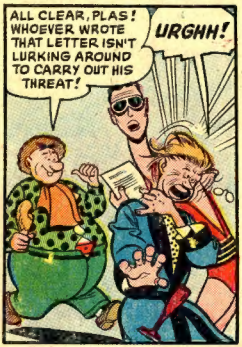

WOOZY!
OH--- UH--- HELLO, PLAS!
CHIEF OF F.B.I.

I---ER---HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THE WHOLE THING! NOT A BAD ASSIGNMENT, HUH? MAYBE SPANGLER GROOME WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR OUR PROTECTION AND TOSS US TWENTY OR THIRTY G'S!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

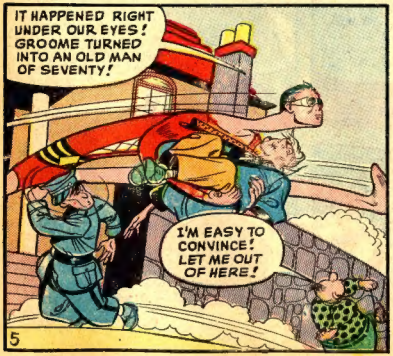

IN SPANGLER GROOME'S PALATIAL HOME ---
HMM! SO THIS IS THE BLACK-MAIL LETTER? SOMETHING ABOUT THE HAND-WRITING LOOKS FAMILIAR!
IT'S THE SECOND NOTE I RECEIVED! I IGNORED THE FIRST, THINKING IT TO BE MERELY ANOTHER CRANK LETTER!

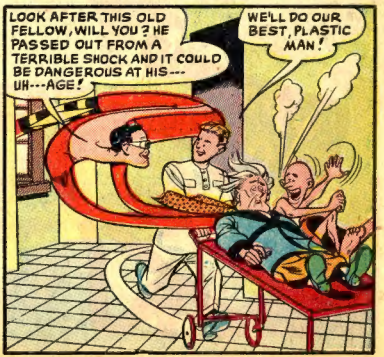
T-THEN I FOUND MY WATCHDOG, BOZO, LYING OUTSIDE HIS KENNEL ONE NIGHT! HE--- HE'D TURNED OLD OVERNIGHT!
HMM, NOW WHERE HAVE I SEEN THIS WRITING BEFORE?

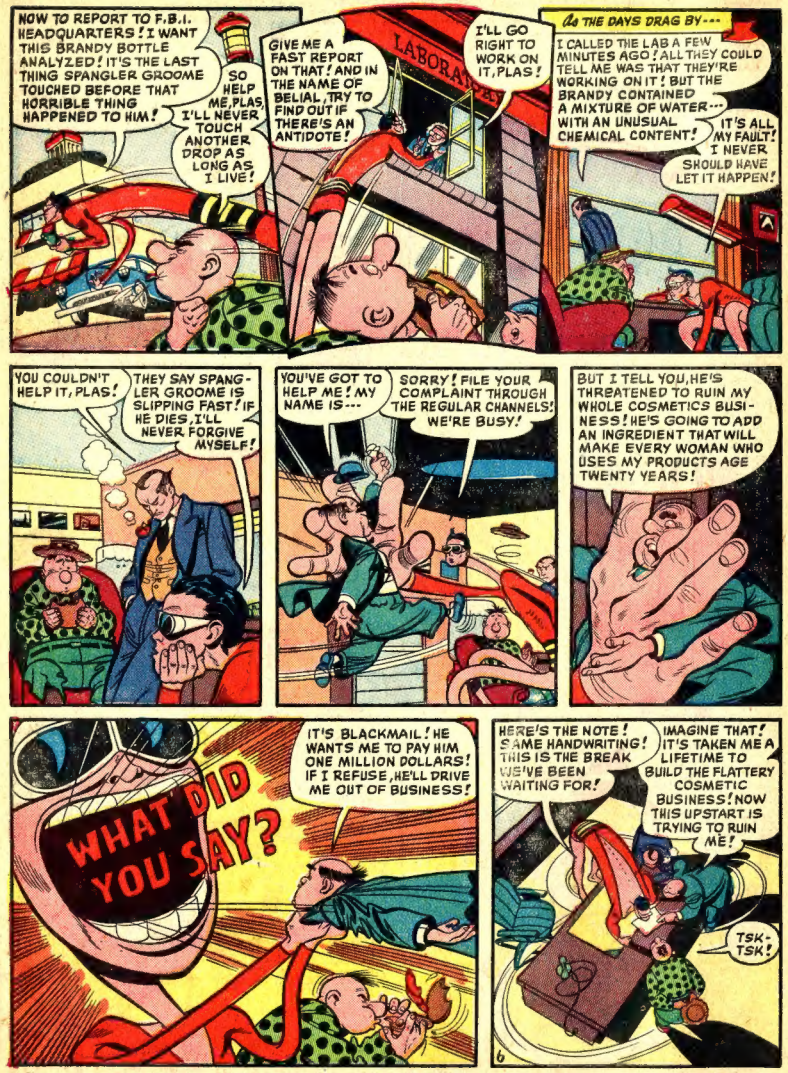
I-I WAS SUPPOSED TO PAY OFF TONIGHT! IT'S TOO LATE NOW! I'M GOING CRAZY WITH THE SUSPENSE!
POISON PEN PULLMAN! THAT'S WHO IT IS!
AGGG!


ALL CLEAR, PLAS! WHOEVER WROTE THAT LETTER ISN'T LURKING AROUND TO CARRY OUT HIS THREAT!
URGHH!

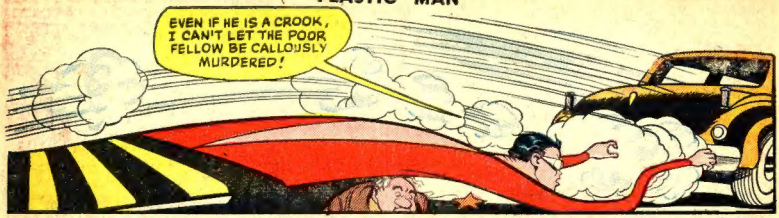
I--I FEEL WEAK! I---
GOOD HEAVENS!

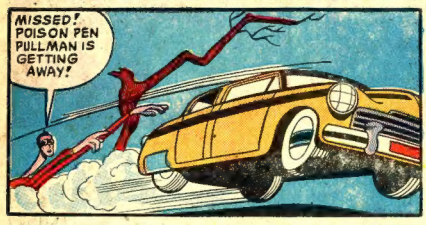

IT HAPPENED RIGHT UNDER OUR EYES! GROOME TURNED INTO AN OLD MAN OF SEVENTY!
I'M EASY TO CONVINCE! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

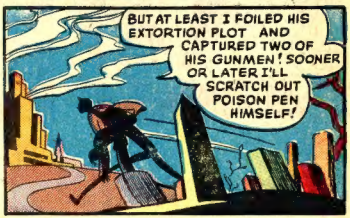

LOOK AFTER THIS OLD FELLOW, WILL YOU? HE PASSED OUT FROM A TERRIBLE SHOCK AND IT COULD BE DANGEROUS AT HIS--- UH---AGE!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST, PLASTIC MAN!

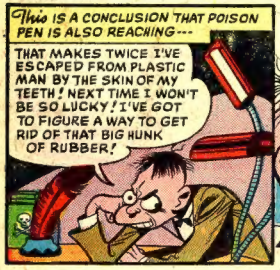

NOW TO REPORT TO F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS! I WANT THIS BRANDY BOTTLE ANALYZED! IT'S THE LAST THING SPANGLER GROOME TOUCHED BEFORE THAT HORRIBLE THING HAPPENED TO HIM!
SO HELP ME, PLAS, I'LL NEVER TOUCH ANOTHER DROP AS LONG AS I LIVE!
GIVE ME A FAST REPORT ON THAT! AND IN THE NAME OF BELIAL, TRY TO FIND OUT IF THERE'S AN ANTIDOTE!
I'LL GO RIGHT TO WORK ON IT, PLAS!
LABORATORY
THE DAYS DRAG BY---
I CALLED THE LAB A FEW MINUTES AGO! ALL THEY COULD TELL ME WAS THAT THEY'RE WORKING ON IT! BUT THE BRANDY CONTAINED A MIXTURE OF WATER--- WITH AN UNUSUAL CHEMICAL CONTENT!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE LET IT HAPPEN!
YOU COULDN'T HELP IT, PLAS!
THEY SAY SPANGLER GROOME IS SLIPPING FAST! IF HE DIES, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! MY NAME IS---
SORRY! FILE YOUR COMPLAINT THROUGH THE REGULAR CHANNELS! WE'RE BUSY!
BUT I TELL YOU, HE'S THREATENED TO RUIN MY WHOLE COSMETICS BUSINESS! HE'S GOING TO ADD AN INGREDIENT THAT WILL MAKE EVERY WOMAN WHO USES MY PRODUCTS AGE TWENTY YEARS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT'S BLACKMAIL! HE WANTS ME TO PAY HIM ONE MILLION DOLLARS! IF I REFUSE, HE'LL DRIVE ME OUT OF BUSINESS!
HERE'S THE NOTE! SAME HANDWRITING! THIS IS THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
IMAGINE THAT! IT'S TAKEN ME A LIFETIME TO BUILD THE FLATTERY COSMETIC BUSINESS! NOW THIS UPSTART IS TRYING TO RUIN ME!
TSK-TSK!
6

I KNOW YOU'LL SAVE ME! WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO, SIR! PAY THE MAN ONE MILLION DOLLARS!
Later...
THIS IS THE PLACE! KEEP ME COVERED, MEN!
HERE'S THE MAZUMA! RIGHT WHERE I TOLD HIM TO PUT IT! I GUESS THE JOB I DID ON SPANGLER GROOME SCARED EVERYBODY ELSE!
BOP!
ONE MILLION BUCKS! THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE NICE, GREEN COOL LOOK OF MONEY THAT I CAN'T RESIST!
I'LL JUST SAMPLE A FEW BILLS TO SEE IF THEY'RE GENUINE! EEEYOW!
DON'T TOUCH!
IT'S PLASTIC MAN! @#%* !%?!
KRUNCH!
LET GO OF ME, YOU RUBBER OCTOPUS!
WHAP!
SWIFTLY SEIZING HIS CHANCE TO ESCAPE...
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME!
THE FIEND! HE'D RUN RIGHT OVER ONE OF HIS OWN BOYS!

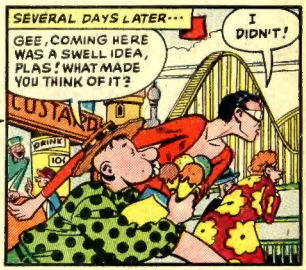

EVEN IF HE IS A CROOK, I CAN'T LET THE POOR FELLOW BE CALLOUSLY MURDERED!

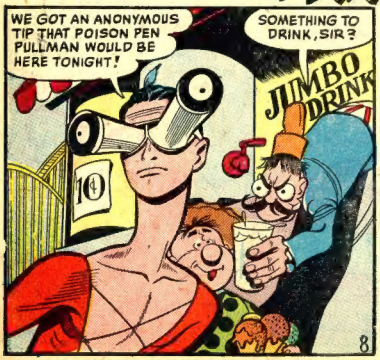

MISSED! POISON PEN PULLMAN IS GETTING AWAY!


BUT AT LEAST I FOILED HIS EXTORTION PLOT AND CAPTURED TWO OF HIS GUNMEN! SOONER OR LATER I'LL SCRATCH OUT POISON PEN HIMSELF!


This IS A CONCLUSION THAT POISON PEN IS ALSO REACHING---
THAT MAKES TWICE I'VE ESCAPED FROM PLASTIC MAN BY THE SKIN OF MY TEETH! NEXT TIME I WON'T BE SO LUCKY! I'VE GOT TO FIGURE A WAY TO GET RID OF THAT BIG HUNK OF RUBBER!

I'VE GOT IT! I'LL FIND A WAY TO SLIP HIM SOME OF THIS STUFF! I'LL MAKE HIM A CANDIDATE FOR A SCRAP RUBBER PILE!


SEVERAL DAYS LATER---
GEE, COMING HERE WAS A SWELL IDEA, PLAS! WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF IT?
I DIDN'T!
CUSTARD
DRINK
10¢


WE GOT AN ANONYMOUS TIP THAT POISON PEN PULLMAN WOULD BE HERE TONIGHT!
SOMETHING TO DRINK, SIR?
JUMBO DRINK
10

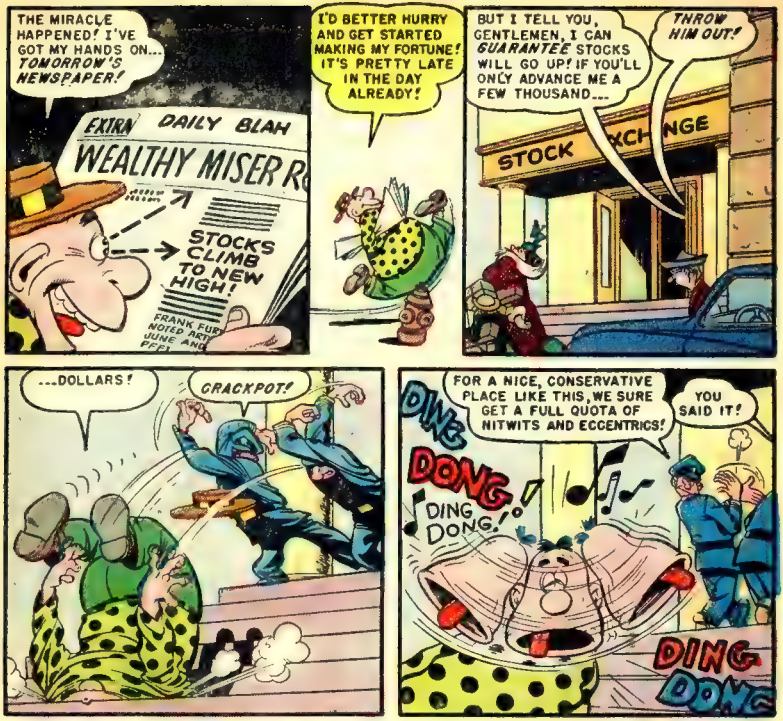
NO, THANKS!
I'LL TAKE IT! I'M THIRSTY!

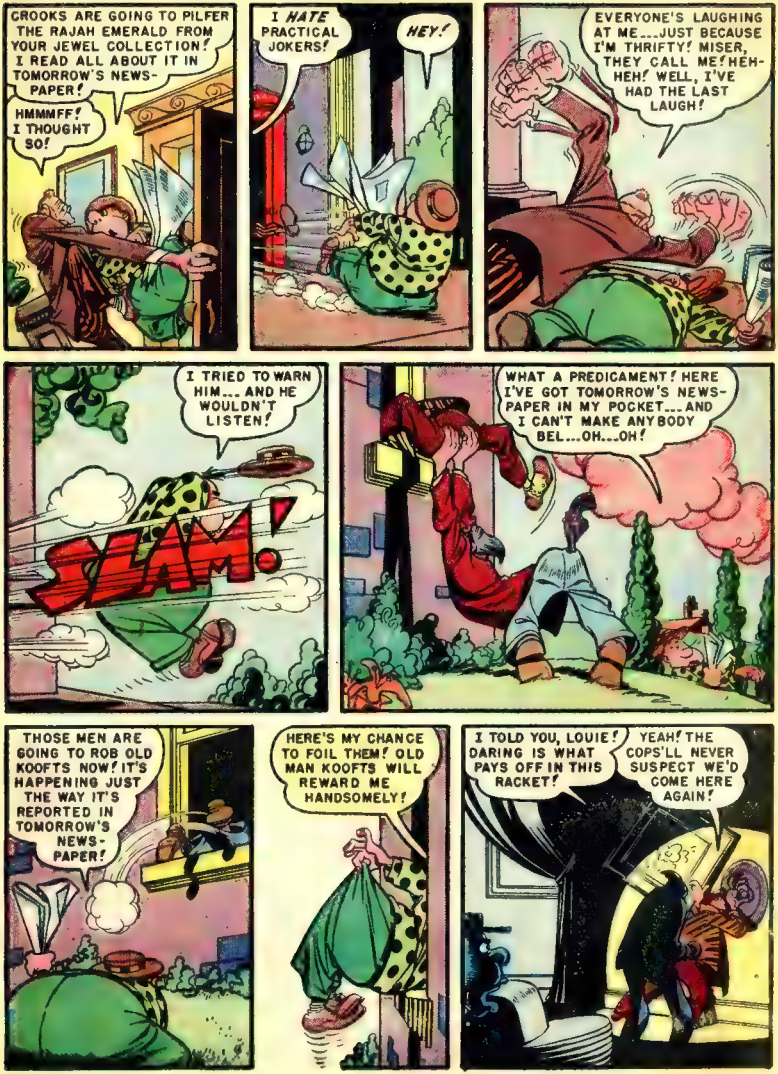
ULP! I'D BETTER BE GOING!
WAIT!
10¢
MY THROAT! WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
NOW I SEE IT ALL! THAT'S POISON PEN PULLMAN!
CREAK
FLYING 25¢ TURNADO
NOPE! THIS TIME YOU'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO YOU!
NOT THAT! THERE'S AN EASIER WAY!
HE SENT THAT ANONYMOUS NOTE! IT WAS JUST A TRAP--- FOR ME! BUT IT BACKFIRED!
BETTER LET ME GO! AND LOOK AFTER THAT DOPEY PAL OF YOURS!
FLYING 25¢ TURNADO
JUST LIKE A CATCHER'S MITT!
PLUNK!
ONLY YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO CATCH IT!
KAWHAM!
PLAS! IS THAT REALLY ME?
FUN HOUSE
WELL---YES AND NO!

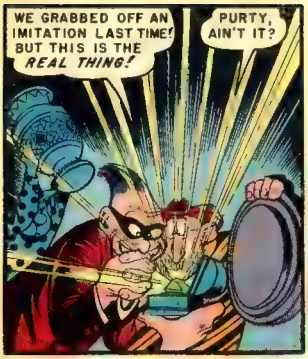
I CAN'T LOOK AS OLD AS I FEEL! I'M SO WEAK I CAN'T EVEN MAKE A WOLF WHISTLE!
POOR WOOZY! AS SOON AS I FIND OUT FROM POISON PEN WHERE THE SOURCE OF THAT POISONOUS WATER IS LOCATED, I'M GOING TO HAVE IT DESTROYED!
LATER...
WOOZY!
SOB! DON'T STOP ME, PLAS, OLD PAL!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT LIVING ANY MORE! I CAN'T EVEN COLLECT SOCIAL SECURITY BECAUSE I'M TOO YOUNG! AND BESIDES, I NEVER DID AN HONEST DAY'S WORK IN MY LIFE!
NEVER MIND! JUST DRINK THIS... LOTS OF IT!
And WHEN WOOZY OBEYS...
HEY! I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!
THE ANTIDOTE WORKS! CONGRATULATIONS!
I DON'T REALLY DESERVE IT, PLASTIC MAN!
THE ANTIDOTE IS NOTHING BUT PLAIN H_2O--ORDINARY DRINKING WATER IN LARGE QUANTITIES! WE DISCOVERED IT BY ACCIDENT WHILE TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO NEUTRALIZE THE CHEMICAL PROPERTIES IN THE OTHER STUFF!
THE FIRST TIME THEY DRANK A LOT OF WATER, POISON PEN'S OTHER VICTIMS PROBABLY RECOVERED WITHOUT OUR HELP!
EEYOW!
I DIDN'T RECOVER COMPLETELY! LOOK, I FOUND A GREY HAIR!
THAT'S JUST NORMAL AT YOUR AGE, WOOZY, AND WHEN YOU GET ENOUGH OF THEM YOU'LL AT LEAST LOOK WISE!

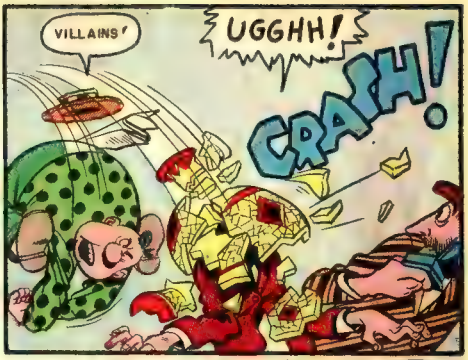
WOOZY
IT'S A LIE! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG! WHY SHOULD I BE ARRESTED?
POLICE
EXTRA DAILY BLAH 3¢
WOOZY WINKS ARRESTED
WHEN WOOZY WINKS GETS HIS HANDS ON A COPY OF TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER... WELL, WHO CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE?
THIS IS A VERY LOW POINT IN THE AFFAIRS OF WOOZY WINKS...
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO TEMPT ME WITH THE ODOR OF FOOD COOKING! ISSOBE HAD A GOOD MEAL ONLY YESTERDAY!
O'RY LEE CHINESE RESTAURANT
SPAGHETTI A SPECIALTY
WHY DON'T YOU FACE THE TRUTH? YOU'RE FLAT BROKE... A FAILURE! WHY, YOU'D HAVE TO SAVE UP FOR A WEEK TO GET MONEY TO WEIGH YOURSELF!

I'D CUT MY THROAT... EXCEPT THAT RAZORS COST MONEY! ONLY A MIRACLE WILL SAVE ME FROM THIS DIRE POVERTY!
WHAP!
?
SMASH SALE
A NEWSPAPER... DATED MAY 14TH! I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY AS LONG AS I LIVE!
HMM?
EVE ING DESIK
OPENS TODAY MAY 13
PARDON ME, OFFICER, BUT WHAT DAY IS THIS?
WEDNESDAY--- MAY 13TH!
YIPPEEE!
?
NO ONE'S WATCHING!
YEP! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! THIS NEWSPAPER IS DATED THURSDAY... MAY 14TH!


THE MIRACLE HAPPENED! I'VE GOT MY HANDS ON... TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER!
EXTRA DAILY BLAH
WEALTHY MISER R
STOCKS CLIMB TO NEW HIGH!
I'D BETTER HURRY AND GET STARTED MAKING MY FORTUNE! IT'S PRETTY LATE IN THE DAY ALREADY!
BUT I TELL YOU, GENTLEMEN, I CAN GUARANTEE STOCKS WILL GO UP! IF YOU'LL ONLY ADVANCE ME A FEW THOUSAND...
THROW HIM OUT!
STOCK
...DOLLARS!
CRACKPOT!
FOR A NICE, CONSERVATIVE PLACE LIKE THIS, WE SURE GET A FULL QUOTA OF NITWITS AND ECCENTRICS!
YOU SAID IT!
DING DONG!
DING DONG!
DING DONG
SO BE IT! IF THE STOCK EXCHANGE IS TOO NARROW-MINDED TO PROFIT FROM TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHERS WHO WILL!
LATER, AT THE HOME OF J. RUFUS KOOFTS...
HOW DO YOU DO, MR. KOOFTS? I CAME TO WARN YOU ABOUT A ROBBERY!
INDEED?
DAIL
WEALT
RUFUS KO ROBBED


CROOKS ARE GOING TO PILFER THE RAJAH EMERALD FROM YOUR JEWEL COLLECTION! I READ ALL ABOUT IT IN TOMORROW'S NEWS-PAPER!
HMMMFF! I THOUGHT SO!
I HATE PRACTICAL JOKERS!
HEY!
EVERYONE'S LAUGHING AT ME...JUST BECAUSE I'M THRIFTY! MISER, THEY CALL ME! HEH-HEH! WELL, I'VE HAD THE LAST LAUGH!
I TRIED TO WARN HIM... AND HE WOULDN'T LISTEN!
SLAM!
WHAT A PREDICAMENT! HERE I'VE GOT TOMORROW'S NEWS-PAPER IN MY POCKET... AND I CAN'T MAKE ANYBODY BEL...OH...OH!
THOSE MEN ARE GOING TO ROB OLD KOOFTS NOW! IT'S HAPPENING JUST THE WAY IT'S REPORTED IN TOMORROW'S NEWS-PAPER!
HERE'S MY CHANCE TO FOIL THEM! OLD MAN KOOFTS WILL REWARD ME HANDSOMELY!
I TOLD YOU, LOUIE! DARING IS WHAT PAYS OFF IN THIS RACKET!
YEAH! THE COPS'LL NEVER SUSPECT WE'D COME HERE AGAIN!

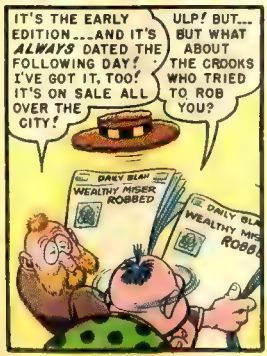

WE GRABBED OFF AN IMITATION LAST TIME! BUT THIS IS THE REAL THING!
PURTY, AIN'T IT?

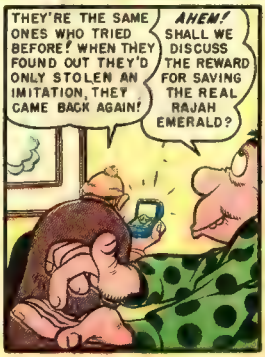

VILLAINS!
UGGHH!
CRASH!

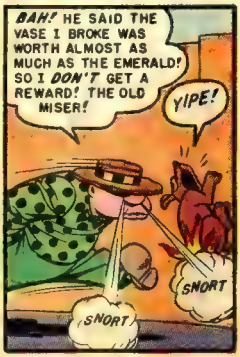
I'LL BLAST... UGHHH!
OH NO, YOU WON'T!

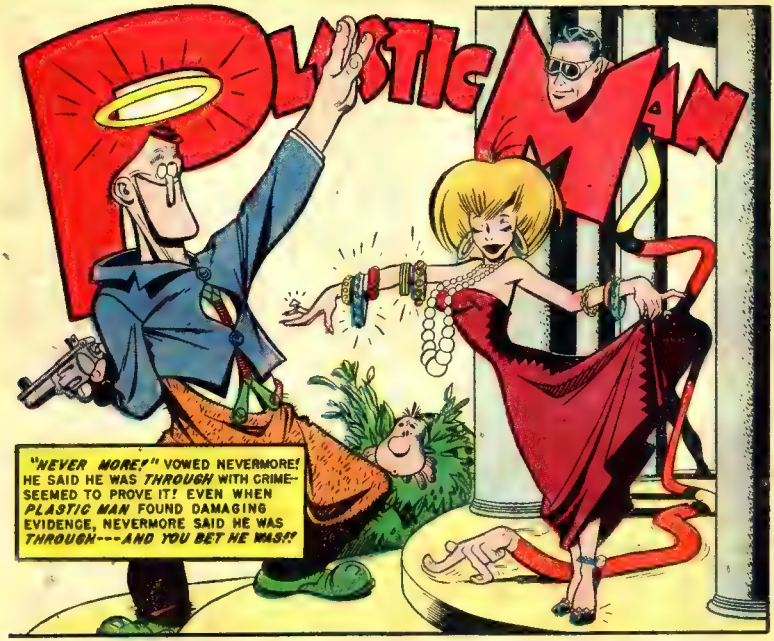
YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO CAPTURE THESE CROOKS!
IT WAS NOTHING ...REALLY! I KNEW THEY COULDN'T HURT ME! IF I'D BEEN KILLED, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SOME MENTION OF IT IN TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER!

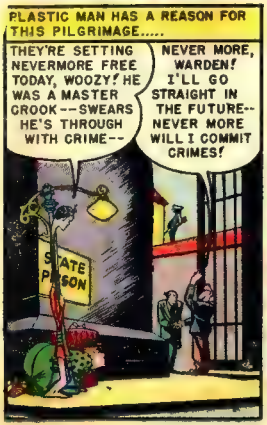
HMM! COME TO THINK OF IT, I WONDER WHY THEY DIDN'T REPORT HOW I HELPED CAPTURE THE CROOKS?
IDIOT! THIS ISN'T TOMORROW'S NEWSPAPER!


IT'S THE EARLY EDITION...AND IT'S ALWAYS DATED THE FOLLOWING DAY! I'VE GOT IT, TOO! IT'S ON SALE ALL OVER THE CITY!
ULP! BUT... BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CROOKS WHO TRIED TO ROB YOU?
DAILY BLAB
WEALTHY MISER ROBBED

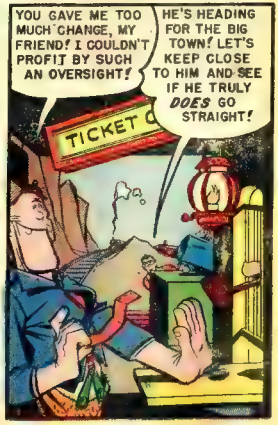

THEY'RE THE SAME ONES WHO TRIED BEFORE! WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THEY'D ONLY STOLEN AN IMITATION, THEY CAME BACK AGAIN!
AHEM! SHALL WE DISCUSS THE REWARD FOR SAVING THE REAL RAJAH EMERALD?


BAH! HE SAID THE VASE I BROKE WAS WORTH ALMOST AS MUCH AS THE EMERALD! SO I DON'T GET A REWARD! THE OLD MISER!
YIPE!
SNORT
SNORT

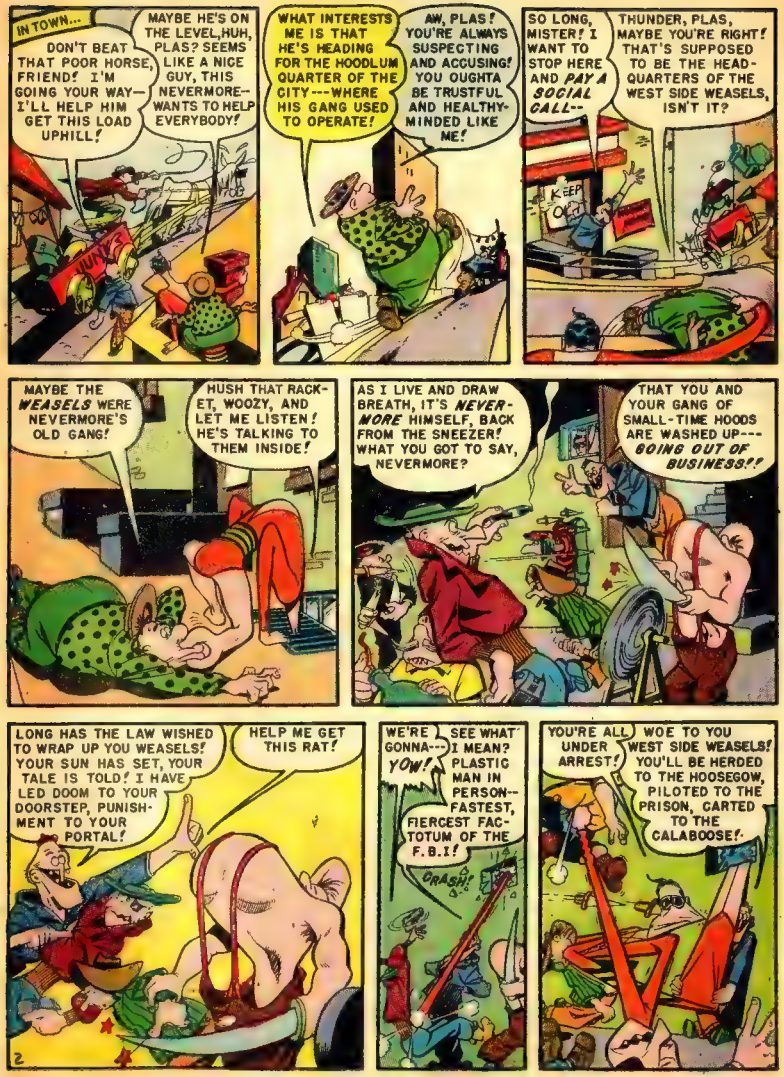

PLASTIC MAN
"NEVER MORE!" VOWED NEVERMORE! HE SAID HE WAS THROUGH WITH CRIME--SEEMED TO PROVE IT! EVEN WHEN PLASTIC MAN FOUND DAMAGING EVIDENCE, NEVERMORE SAID HE WAS THROUGH---AND YOU BET HE WAS!!


PLASTIC MAN HAS A REASON FOR THIS PILGRIMAGE.....
THEY'RE SETTING NEVERMORE FREE TODAY, WOOZY! HE WAS A MASTER CROOK--SWEARS HE'S THROUGH WITH CRIME--
NEVER MORE, WARDEN! I'LL GO STRAIGHT IN THE FUTURE--NEVER MORE WILL I COMMIT CRIMES!
STATE PRISON

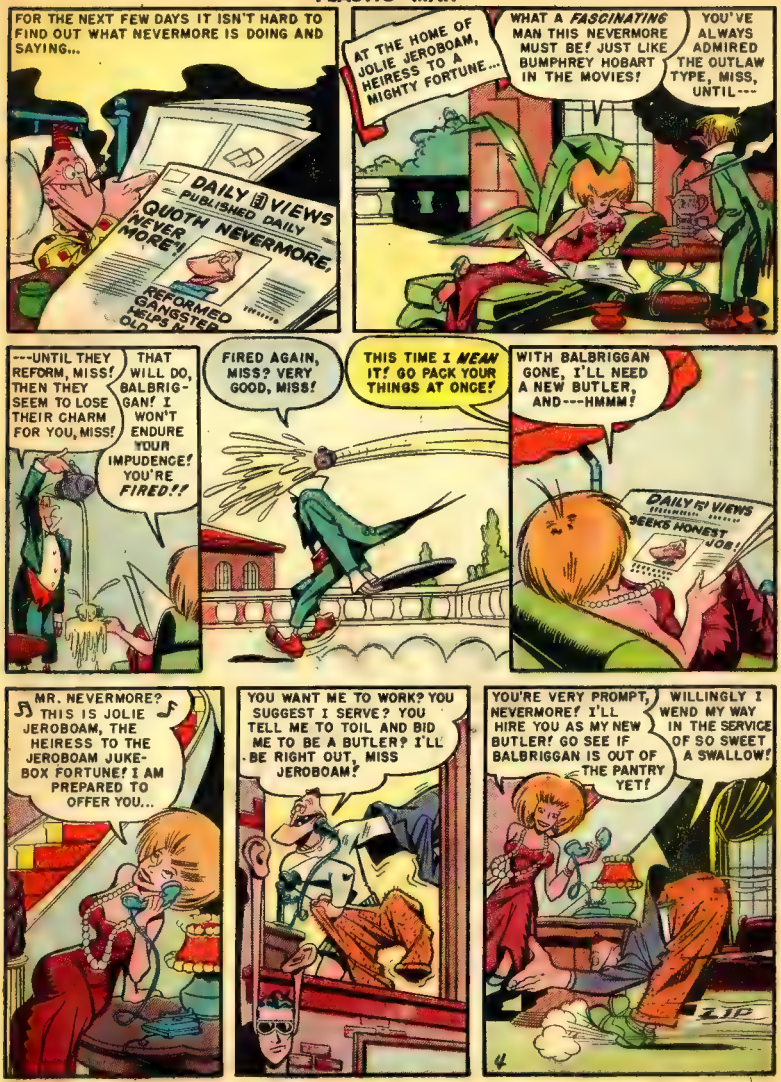
NEVERMORE REFUSED TO NAME HIS LIEUTENANTS! I HOPED THEY'D MEET HIM AT THE GATE, BUT THEY DIDN'T!
HERE, MADAM, PERMIT ME TO HELP YOU THROUGH THIS TRAFFIC! A PLEASURE!


YOU GAVE ME TOO MUCH CHANGE, MY FRIEND! I COULDN'T PROFIT BY SUCH AN OVERSIGHT!
HE'S HEADING FOR THE BIG TOWN! LET'S KEEP CLOSE TO HIM AND SEE IF HE TRULY DOES GO STRAIGHT!
TICKET

PLASTIC MAN


IN TOWN...
DON'T BEAT THAT POOR HORSE, FRIEND! I'M GOING YOUR WAY—I'LL HELP HIM GET THIS LOAD UPHILL!
MAYBE HE'S ON THE LEVEL, HUH, PLAS? SEEMS LIKE A NICE GUY, THIS NEVERMORE—WANTS TO HELP EVERYBODY!
HUH?
WHAT INTERESTS ME IS THAT HE'S HEADING FOR THE HOODLUM QUARTER OF THE CITY—WHERE HIS GANG USED TO OPERATE!
AW, PLAS! YOU'RE ALWAYS SUSPECTING AND ACCUSING! YOU OUGHTA BE TRUSTFUL AND HEALTHY-MINDED LIKE ME!
SO LONG, MISTER! I WANT TO STOP HERE AND PAY A SOCIAL CALL—
KEEP OFF!
THUNDER, PLAS, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE WEST SIDE WEASELS, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE THE WEASELS WERE NEVERMORE'S OLD GANG!
HUSH THAT RACKET, WOOZY, AND LET ME LISTEN! HE'S TALKING TO THEM INSIDE!
AS I LIVE AND DRAW BREATH, IT'S NEVERMORE HIMSELF, BACK FROM THE SNEEZER! WHAT YOU GOT TO SAY, NEVERMORE?
THAT YOU AND YOUR GANG OF SMALL-TIME HOODS ARE WASHED UP—GOING OUT OF BUSINESS?!
LONG HAS THE LAW WISHED TO WRAP UP YOU WEASELS! YOUR SUN HAS SET, YOUR TALE IS TOLD! I HAVE LED DOOM TO YOUR DOORSTEP, PUNISHMENT TO YOUR PORTAL!
HELP ME GET THIS RAT!
2
WE'RE GONNA—
YOW!
SEE WHAT I MEAN? PLASTIC MAN IN PERSON—FASTEST, FIERCEST FACTOTUM OF THE F.B.I.!
CRASH!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!
WOE TO YOU WEST SIDE WEASELS! YOU'LL BE HERDED TO THE HOOSEGOW, PILOTED TO THE PRISON, CARTED TO THE CALABOOSE!

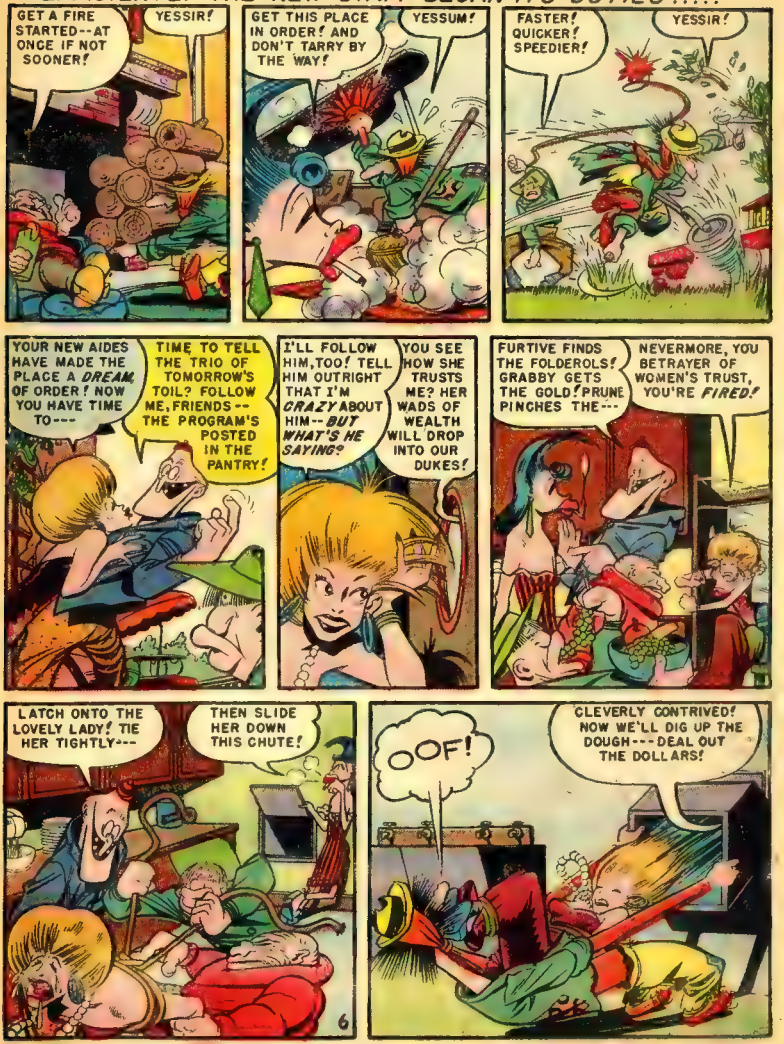
HE'S ALL ALONE! MOB HIM! MOP HIM!
OH DEAR, OH DEAR! POOR PLAS!
CRAIH!
THAT'S HIS WATERLOO--HE CAN'T LICK ALL THE WEASELS! THE END OF MY DEAR PAL--AND HIM SO YOUNG AND PROMISING---
STOP THAT SNIVELLING, WOOZY! CALL HEADQUARTERS AND ASK THE CHIEF TO SEND A FLEET OF AMBULANCES AND PIE WAGONS!
AT F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS, PLASTIC MAN MAKES HIS REPORT...
THAT'S THE WAY IT WENT, CHIEF! THE WEST SIDE WEASELS WILL FINISH THEIR CAREER IN JAIL--- THANKS TO MR. NEVERMORE HERE!
NEVERMORE, IF YOU KNEW THEIR HIDEOUT AND WANTED THEM TO BE CLEANED UP, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US WHILE YOU WERE IN PRISON?
AH, SUCH ACTION ON MY PART MIGHT MEAN THAT I SOUGHT SYMPATHY--COVETED CLEMENCY! I SOUGHT TO SERVE MY SENTENCE AND THEN PROVE MY PURITY OF PURPOSE!
BUT WEREN'T YOU TAKING A BIG CHANCE, BUSTING INTO THEIR DEN ALONE?
NOT SO, SIR! WELL DID I KNOW THAT THIS FELLOW FOLLOWED MY FOOTSTEPS LIKE A FOX!
YOU'RE KIDDING! YOU NEVER SAW ME ONCE!
TRUE, TRUE, BUT YOUR PUDGY PAL WAS PLAIN TO PERUSE ON THE PAVEMENT! WHERE WOOZY WINKS WADDLES, PLASTIC MAN IS HOVERING AT HAND!
AWWW!
NEVERMORE'S MY NAME AND NEVERMORE'S MY NATURE! CRIME AND CROOKEDNESS MAY CRUMBLE! STRAIGHT AS A STRING IS THE PATH I PLOD--- PERMANENTLY!
I HOPE SO, NEVERMORE! LET'S GO, WOOZY!
HE MUST BE LEVELLING, PLAS! AFTER ALL, HE LED US TO THE HIDEOUT OF HIS FORMER GANG---
DID YOU NOTICE THAT HE NEVER SAID THEY WERE HIS FORMER GANG?
FRONT
NO! HOW COULD I NOTICE IT IF HE DIDN'T SAY IT?
YOU'VE GOT TO NOTICE THINGS THAT AREN'T THERE, WOOZY! I'M KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON WHAT NEVERMORE DOES IN THE FUTURE!


FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS IT ISN'T HARD TO FIND OUT WHAT NEVERMORE IS DOING AND SAYING...
DAILY VIEWS PUBLISHED DAILY
QUOTH NEVERMORE, NEVER MORE!
REFORMED GANGSTER HELPS 'N OLD
AT THE HOME OF JOLIE JEROBOAM, HEIRESS TO A MIGHTY FORTUNE...
WHAT A FASCINATING MAN THIS NEVERMORE MUST BE! JUST LIKE BUMPHREY HOBART IN THE MOVIES!
YOU'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED THE OUTLAW TYPE, MISS, UNTIL---
---UNTIL THEY REFORM, MISS! THEN THEY SEEM TO LOSE THEIR CHARM FOR YOU, MISS!
THAT WILL DO, BALBRIGGAN! I WON'T ENDURE YOUR IMPUDENCE! YOU'RE FIRED!!
FIRED AGAIN, MISS? VERY GOOD, MISS!
THIS TIME I MEAN IT! GO PACK YOUR THINGS AT ONCE!
WITH BALBRIGGAN GONE, I'LL NEED A NEW BUTLER, AND---HMMM!
DAILY VIEWS
SEEKS HONEST JOB!
MR. NEVERMORE? THIS IS JOLIE JEROBOAM, THE HEIRESS TO THE JEROBOAM JUKE-BOX FORTUNE! I AM PREPARED TO OFFER YOU...
YOU WANT ME TO WORK? YOU SUGGEST I SERVE? YOU TELL ME TO TOIL AND BID ME TO BE A BUTLER? I'LL BE RIGHT OUT, MISS JEROBOAM!
YOU'RE VERY PROMPT, NEVERMORE! I'LL HIRE YOU AS MY NEW BUTLER! GO SEE IF BALBRIGGAN IS OUT OF THE PANTRY YET!
WILLINGLY I WEND MY WAY IN THE SERVICE OF SO SWEET A SWALLOW!
LJP

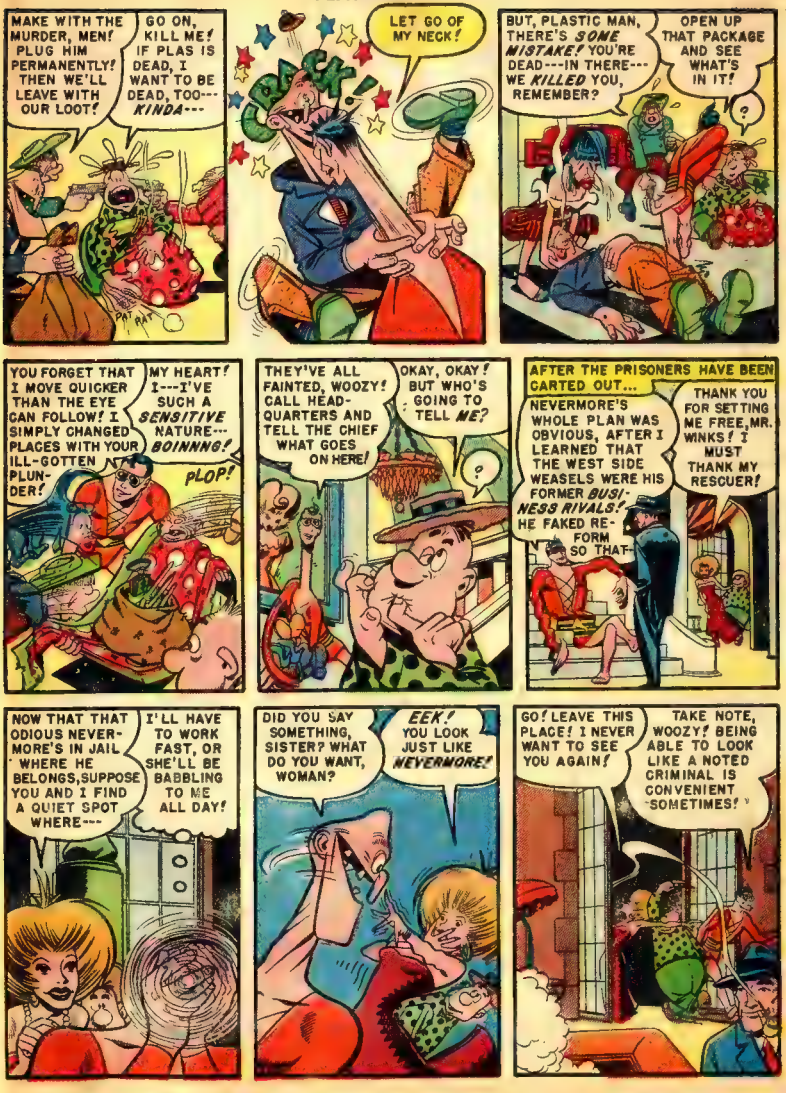
PLASTIC MAN

THIS TEAPOT IS SILVER---IT WILL BE A PRETTY KEEPSAKE OF MY JOB HERE---
AHA! OHO! AHOY!
BEHOLD BALBRIGGAN, THE BAD BURGLARIZING BUTLER! HE TAKES TEAPOTS---SNITCHES SILVER!
OH, NEVERMORE! THIS PROVES THAT YOU'RE ON THE SIDE OF LAW AND ORDER!
SCRAM, SCOUNDRELLY SCAPEGRACE!
IF YOU DON'T SEE THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF NEVERMORE'S ACTIONS, WOOZY, I WON'T BOTHER TO EXPLAIN--JUST YET!
OH, NEVERMORE! THAT WAS GALLANT---YOU'RE GOING TO BE MORE THAN A BUTLER TO ME!
MORE THAN A BUTLER? YES, INDEED! YOUR MANAGER, MAYBE! YOUR SECRETARY, CERTAINLY! YOUR DIRECTOR, DIRECTLY! YOU NEED A NEW STAFF OF SLICK SERVANTS--
GREETINGS, GRABBY! PAGE PRUNE---FIND FURTIVE! I WANT YOU TO---
HE'S SO MASTERFUL--SO PRACTICAL AND SO ROMANTIC!
THUMP! THUMP! BOOM! BANG! BOINNNG! THUMP! BOOM!
FURTIVE, NEVERMORE WANTS US TO COME OUT WHERE HE'S BUTLER---TAKE JOBS AND HELP HIM CLEAN OUT THE JOINT!
I DON'T LIKE THAT WORD JOB, DO YOU, PRUNE? GRABBY, WE OUGHTA HIRE SOMEBODY TO DO THE WORKING WHILE WE DO THE STEALING!
BRILLIANT IDEA, PRUNEPUSS! GET US SOME HUNGRY DERELICT WHO'LL DO WHAT HE'S TOLD FOR A FEW BUCKS!
HEY, YOU! YOU LOOK LIKE THE GUY WE WANT--COME ALONG WITH US!
WITHIN THE HALF HOUR, AT JOLIE JEROBOAM'S...
GRABBY IS YOUR GARDENER---PRUNE YOUR PAGE---FURTIVE YOUR FACTOTUM!
WONDERFUL, NEVERMORE! BUT WHO'S THAT VULGAR-SEEMING FELLOW WITH THE LUGGAGE?
A MERE MENIAL, MADAME! WE LINED HIM UP FOR LUGGING AND LIFTING!
GET TO MOILING AND TOILING, SLUG!
5

EFFICIENTLY THE NEW STAFF BEGAN ITS DUTIES.....


GET A FIRE STARTED--AT ONCE IF NOT SOONER!
YESSIR!
GET THIS PLACE IN ORDER! AND DON'T TARRY BY THE WAY!
YESSUM!
FASTER! QUICKER! SPEEDIER!
YESSIR!
YOUR NEW AIDES HAVE MADE THE PLACE A DREAM OF ORDER! NOW YOU HAVE TIME TO---
TIME TO TELL THE TRIO OF TOMORROW'S TOIL? FOLLOW ME, FRIENDS -- THE PROGRAM'S POSTED IN THE PANTRY!
I'LL FOLLOW HIM, TOO! TELL HIM OUTRIGHT THAT I'M CRAZY ABOUT HIM -- BUT WHAT'S HE SAYING?
YOU SEE HOW SHE TRUSTS ME? HER WADS OF WEALTH WILL DROP INTO OUR DUKES!
FURTIVE FINDS THE FOLDEROLS! GRABBY GETS THE GOLD! PRUNE PINCHES THE---
NEVERMORE, YOU BETRAYER OF WOMEN'S TRUST, YOU'RE FIRED!
LATCH ONTO THE LOVELY LADY! TIE HER TIGHTLY---
THEN SLIDE HER DOWN THIS CHUTE!
OOF!
CLEVERLY CONTRIVED! NOW WE'LL DIG UP THE DOUGH---DEAL OUT THE DOLLARS!

DON'T BE AFRAID! I'M PLASTIC MAN--- I WAS WAITING HERE TO LISTEN TO THEIR SCHEME!
UNTIE ME QUICK!
NO, MISS JEROBOAM! YOU'LL BE OUT OF DANGER HERE! JUST WAIT!
BUT---
GREAT, GRABBY! FINE, FURTIVE! PERFECT, PRUNE!
YOU'LL NEVER MORE BEAT THIS RAP, NEVERMORE!
I'LL TAKE THAT SACKFUL OF LOOT, NEVERMORE!
PLASTIC MAN! YOU SEEK THIS SACK OF SWAG, EH? THEN---
TAKE IT, TROUBLESOME TOAD---CRACKED ON THE CROWN OF YOUR CRANIUM!
HE'S KNOCKED GROGGY! HELP ME TIE HIM UP IN THIS RUG!
TIE HIM TIGHTLY! ALLOW NOT AN AIRHOLE! THEN--LATHER HIM WITH LEAD!
THE AMBITION OF MY LIFE!
GIVE US THE WORD, NEVERMORE!
GLADLY, GIRL! READY!--- AIM!!---
FIRE!
BAM!
BANG
CENSORED! THIS IS TOO HEART-RENDING FOR YOU TO SEE!!
BAM
THERE---A LILY FOR PLASTIC MAN, AND ON HIM IT LOOKS GOOD!
I WAS LISTENING OUTSIDE! HEARD THE SHOTS! DID YOU REALLY KILL PLAS?


MAKE WITH THE MURDER, MEN! PLUG HIM PERMANENTLY! THEN WE'LL LEAVE WITH OUR LOOT!
GO ON, KILL ME! IF PLAS IS DEAD, I WANT TO BE DEAD, TOO--- KINDA---
PAT PAT
LET GO OF MY NECK!
CRACK!
BUT, PLASTIC MAN, THERE'S SOME MISTAKE! YOU'RE DEAD---IN THERE--- WE KILLED YOU, REMEMBER?
OPEN UP THAT PACKAGE AND SEE WHAT'S IN IT!
?
YOU FORGET THAT I MOVE QUICKER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW! I SIMPLY CHANGED PLACES WITH YOUR ILL-GOTTEN PLUNDER!
MY HEART! I---I'VE SUCH A SENSITIVE NATURE--- BOINNNG!
PLOP!
THEY'VE ALL FAINTED, WOOZY! CALL HEADQUARTERS AND TELL THE CHIEF WHAT GOES ON HERE!
OKAY, OKAY! BUT WHO'S GOING TO TELL ME?
?
AFTER THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN CARTED OUT...
NEVERMORE'S WHOLE PLAN WAS OBVIOUS, AFTER I LEARNED THAT THE WEST SIDE WEASELS WERE HIS FORMER BUSINESS RIVALS! HE FAKED REFORM SO THAT
THANK YOU FOR SETTING ME FREE, MR. WINKS! I MUST THANK MY RESCUER!
NOW THAT THAT ODIOUS NEVERMORE'S IN JAIL WHERE HE BELONGS, SUPPOSE YOU AND I FIND A QUIET SPOT WHERE---
I'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST, OR SHE'LL BE BABBLING TO ME ALL DAY!
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, SISTER? WHAT DO YOU WANT, WOMAN?
EEK! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE NEVERMORE!
GO! LEAVE THIS PLACE! I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
TAKE NOTE, WOOZY! BEING ABLE TO LOOK LIKE A NOTED CRIMINAL IS CONVENIENT SOMETIMES!

LIGHT FINGERS

THERE were three of the gang at the railroad station, and those three were—Eperon, the boss himself; Muscle Moggs, his strongarm lieutenant; and Shippard, the disbarred lawyer who figured the angles. In Eperon's pocket was a snapshot of the gaunt-faced, red-haired man they were to meet—Lifter, prince of pickpockets, who had agreed to come halfway across the world and join the Eperon mob for a new and important raid on the town's wealthiest citizens.

"There he is, boss," muttered Shippard as a gaunt-faced passenger left the train. But next moment all three stared as another passenger, the exact duplicate of the first in appearance, also issued from the train, brushed quickly against his twin, and then walked toward them, something half-hidden in his grasp.

Muscle stepped forward to meet this man. "You're Lifter," he said.

"You seem to know that," remarked the gaunt-faced one.

"Because I saw you jostle your duplicate yonder. Who's he, and what did you pick his pocket for?"

"For something that will tell us who he is. I take it you're the Eperon bunch. Look at this."

He held out the wallet in his hand. Eperon snatched it and flipped it open.

"So!" he growled, and all glanced quickly at the identification card inside—it bore the name of Brace and the signature of the head of the F. B. I.

That explained everything, thought Eperon hurriedly. Brace was the F. B. I. genius whose talent for make-up and impersonation made him the terror of all criminals. Apparently he had heard a rumor of Lifter's errand, and had disguised himself as Lifter. It would have worked, had not Lifter, himself, picked Brace's pocket of this evidence that unmasked the plan.

"I'll keep in the background," whispered Lifter to Eperon. "You meet Brace, pretend to believe he's Lifter. Then—"

The second gaunt-faced man approached, smiling and offered his hand. Eperon managed an answering smirk, shook hands, and introduced his lieutenants. "Come on, Lifter," said Eperon. "Our car's parked over there. When we're inside, we'll tell you the setup."

"Swell," said the newcomer, and Muscle stepped close to his side, ready to strike at the first false move.

But there were no false moves. The party left the railroad station quietly, and reached the car. Shippard pulled open the door. Inside, in the back seat, sat the counterpart of their gaunt-faced companion.

"Hello," he grinned. "Nice makeup you have on, Brace. You even look like me, in a silly way."

"What's all this about?" growled the other, but at that moment Muscle's powerful hand shoved him violently into the car. Muscle got in beside the prisoner, pointing a gun. Shippard took the wheel, and Eperon, seated beside Shippard, spoke to the captive.

"Brace," he said, "this is what gives you away." And he held out the wallet with the F. B. I. identification.

"Why do you call me Brace?" demanded the terrified man. "I'm Lifter. If you'll just let me prove—"

"Quiet, you rat, there's a cop just passing," growled Muscle.

"Drive to the apartment, Shippard," ordered Eperon.

They did so. Again the prisoner tried to speak, and again Muscle gruffly threatened him into silence. Inside the apartment, Eperon ordered them into the bathroom.

"Scrub that makeup from his face," Eperon commanded. "Let's see what Brace looks like before we rub him out."

Muscle and Shippard scrubbed and scrubbed. They looked. The gaunt face was a little cleaner than before—that was all.

"Let me explain," said the other newcomer, the man they called Lifter. "He isn't Brace. I am."

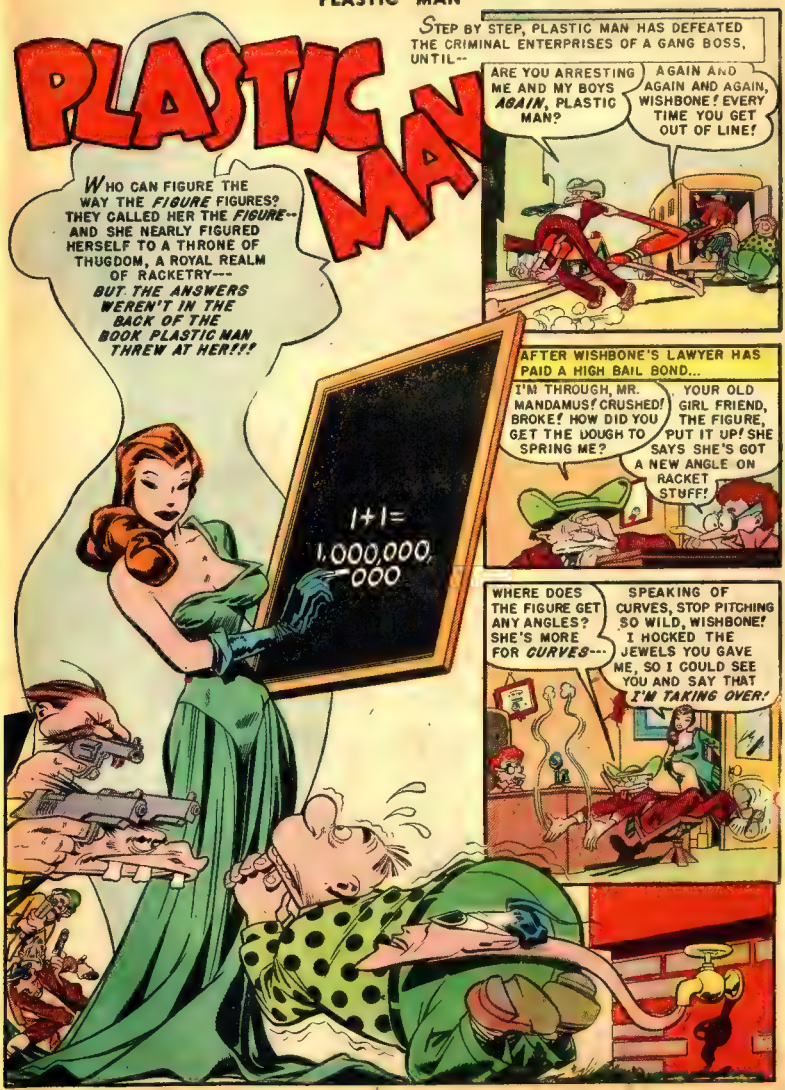
"You!" roared Eperon. "But you picked this wallet out of his pocket."

"I pretended to. It was my wallet and my identification. I shifted suspicion to him after I got wind of his joining you. That was the easiest way to find my way into this hideout of yours."

"You'll never live to get out again," blustered Muscle.

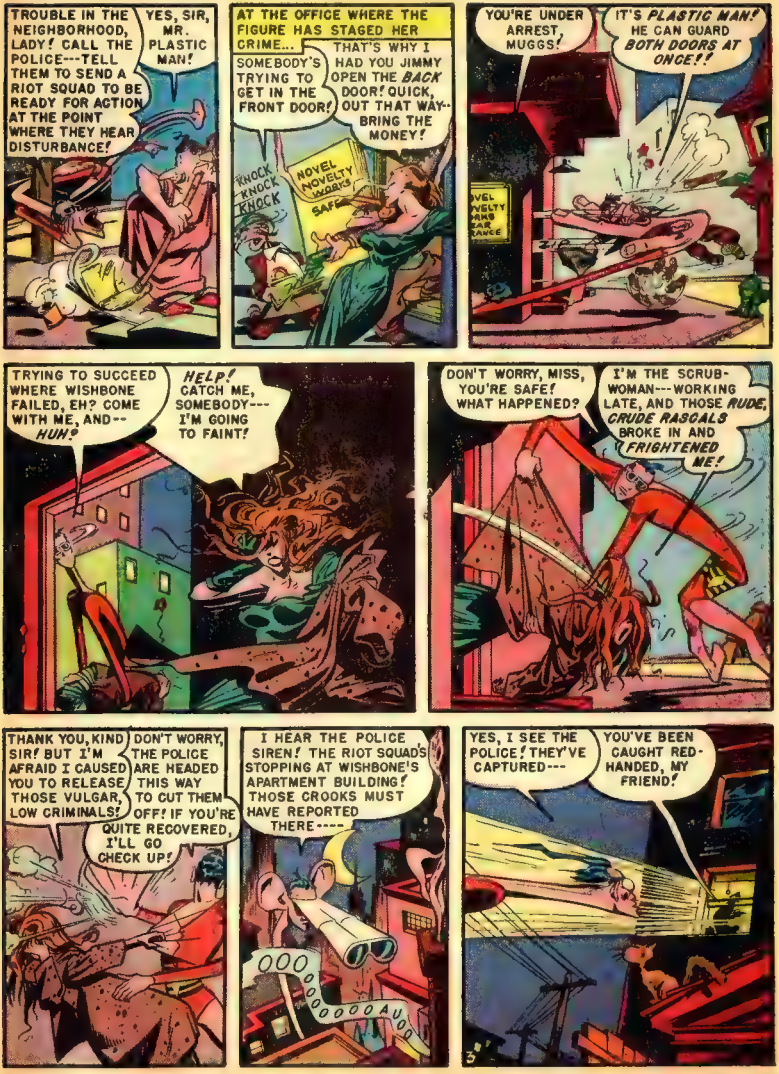
The real Brace grinned. "I carried a radio transmitter with me, to call the police to follow. I figure they'll be here in about five seconds. Suppose we count. One—two—three—"

On the fourth second, the police stormed in to seize Eperon and his lawbreaking lieutenants.


PLASTIC MAN
WHO CAN FIGURE THE WAY THE FIGURE FIGURES? THEY CALLED HER THE FIGURE-- AND SHE NEARLY FIGURED HERSELF TO A THRONE OF THUGDOM, A ROYAL REALM OF RACKETRY--- BUT THE ANSWERS WEREN'T IN THE BACK OF THE BOOK PLASTIC MAN THREW AT HER!!!
1+1=
1,000,000,000
STEP BY STEP, PLASTIC MAN HAS DEFEATED THE CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES OF A GANG BOSS, UNTIL--
ARE YOU ARRESTING ME AND MY BOYS AGAIN, PLASTIC MAN?
AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN, WISHBONE! EVERY TIME YOU GET OUT OF LINE!
AFTER WISHBONE'S LAWYER HAS PAID A HIGH BAIL BOND...
I'M THROUGH, MR. MANDAMUS! CRUSHED! BROKE! HOW DID YOU GET THE DOUGH TO SPRING ME?
YOUR OLD GIRL FRIEND, THE FIGURE, PUT IT UP! SHE SAYS SHE'S GOT A NEW ANGLE ON RACKET STUFF!
WHERE DOES THE FIGURE GET ANY ANGLES? SHE'S MORE FOR CURVES---
SPEAKING OF CURVES, STOP PITCHING SO WILD, WISHBONE! I HOCKED THE JEWELS YOU GAVE ME, SO I COULD SEE YOU AND SAY THAT I'M TAKING OVER!

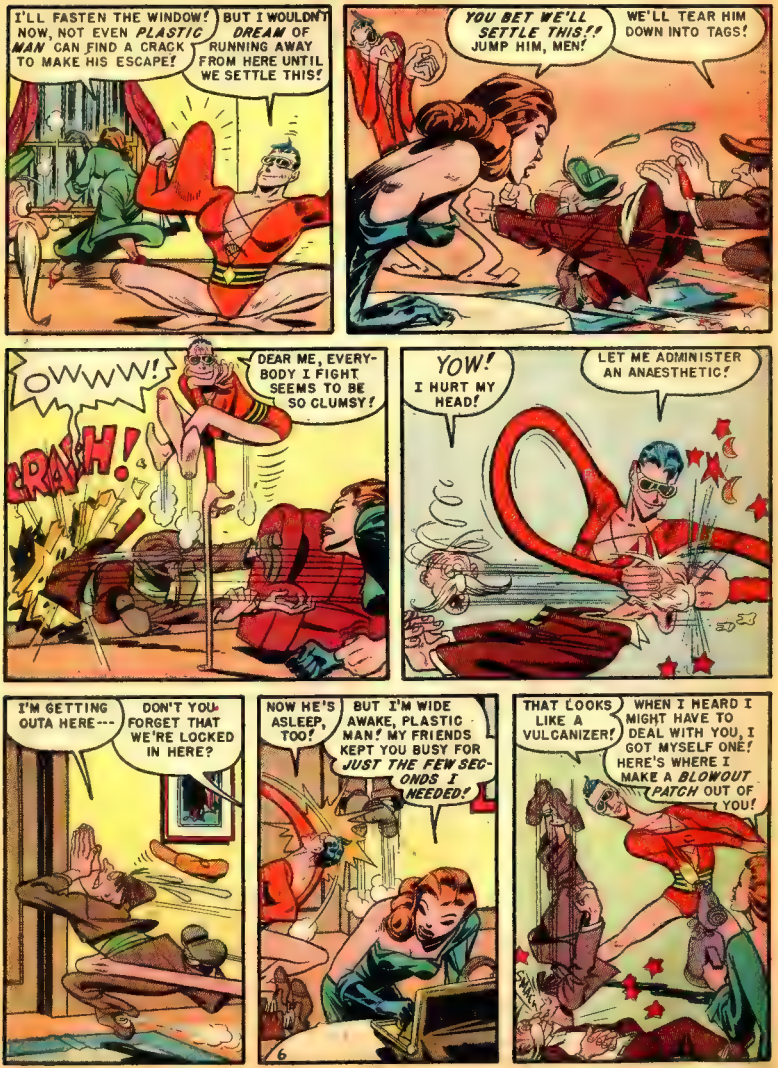
PLASTIC MAN

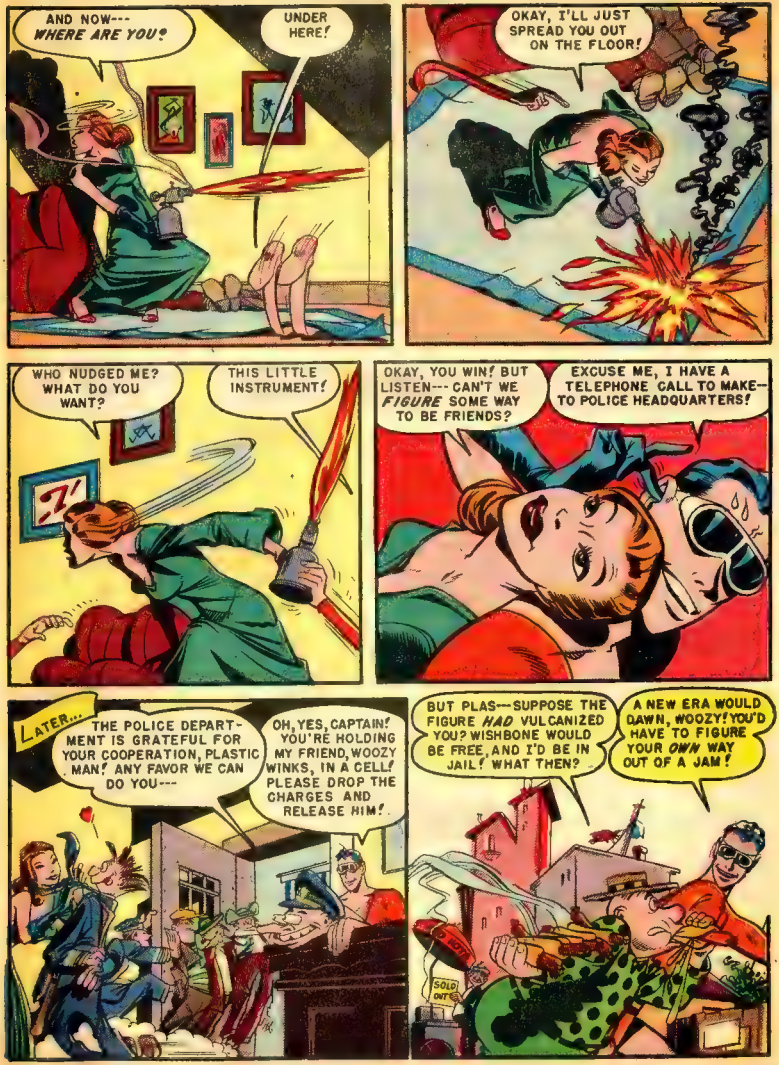
I'M SO BEAUTIFUL THAT FOLKS FORGET I WAS A GENIUS AT ARITHMETIC IN SCHOOL! IT'S MY BAD LUCK TO BE ADMIRED FOR MY APPEARANCE ALONE!
SUCH BAD LUCK EVERY GIRL SHOULD HAVE! HUH, WISHBONE?
BUT NOW---YOU AND YOUR MOB TAKE ORDERS FROM ME! OR I WITHDRAW THE BAIL MONEY I PAID, AND BACK TO THE JUG YOU GO!
OKAY, FIGURE, OKAY! WHAT KIND OF JOB HAVE YOU DREAMED UP FOR US?
YOUR HOODLUMS GET TOGETHER TONIGHT AND CRACK THE SAFE OF THE NOVEL NOVELTY WORKS! THERE'S A FORTUNE TO BE HAD!
B-BUT, FIGURE!! THAT'S THE VERY JOB PLASTIC MAN SLEUTHED OUT AND CAUGHT ME PULLING! IF WE TRY IT AGAIN SO SOON--
AWRK AWRK
FLIP FLAP FLAP
EXACTLY!! IF WE TRY IT AGAIN SO QUICKLY, NOBODY WILL BE LOOKING FOR US! CALL YOUR BUMS AND GET GOING!
HEY, MANDAMUS, MAYBE THE FIGURE'S REALLY GOT SOMETHING !!!
GOT SOMETHING? SHE CERTAINLY HAS, AND--- OWW!
WOLF STUFF IS OUT, GENTS! STOP DROOLING ABOUT ME AND GET TO WORK!
THAT NIGHT...
WISHBONE'S OUT ON BAIL, WOOZY! WE'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO SEE THAT HE STAYS QUIET!
I SEE HIM IN THERE, PLAS, AND QUIET'S WHAT HE SEEMS TO BE STAYING!
LOOK, PLAS! THE VERY IMAGE OF A PEACEFUL, LAW-ABIDING MAN!
SO PERFECT IT'S FUNNY--- OR PHONY! I WONDER---
THAT'S AN EXPLOSION! IT SEEMS TO COME FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE NOVEL NOVELTY WORKS! QUICK, I MUST---
HEY, P-PLAS! DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING HERE-- THE SUSPENSE IS AWFUL!


TROUBLE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, LADY! CALL THE POLICE---TELL THEM TO SEND A RIOT SQUAD TO BE READY FOR ACTION AT THE POINT WHERE THEY HEAR DISTURBANCE!
YES, SIR, MR. PLASTIC MAN!
AT THE OFFICE WHERE THE FIGURE HAS STAGED HER CRIME...
SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO GET IN THE FRONT DOOR!
THAT'S WHY I HAD YOU JIMMY OPEN THE BACK DOOR! QUICK, OUT THAT WAY-- BRING THE MONEY!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
NOVEL NOVELTY WORKS
SAFE
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, MUGGS!
IT'S PLASTIC MAN! HE CAN GUARD BOTH DOORS AT ONCE!!
TRYING TO SUCCEED WHERE WISHBONE FAILED, EH? COME WITH ME, AND-- HUH?
HELP! CATCH ME, SOMEBODY--- I'M GOING TO FAINT!
DON'T WORRY, MISS, YOU'RE SAFE! WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M THE SCRUB-WOMAN---WORKING LATE, AND THOSE RUDE, CRUDE RASCALS BROKE IN AND FRIGHTENED ME!
THANK YOU, KIND SIR! BUT I'M AFRAID I CAUSED YOU TO RELEASE THOSE VULGAR, LOW CRIMINALS!
DON'T WORRY, THE POLICE ARE HEADED THIS WAY TO CUT THEM OFF! IF YOU'RE QUITE RECOVERED, I'LL GO CHECK UP!
I HEAR THE POLICE SIREN! THE RIOT SQUAD'S STOPPING AT WISHBONE'S APARTMENT BUILDING! THOSE CROOKS MUST HAVE REPORTED THERE----
OOOOOOOOOOAUOO
YES, I SEE THE POLICE! THEY'VE CAPTURED---
YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED, MY FRIEND!

I TELL YOU, I FOUND HIM CLIMBING IN AT MY WINDOW--TO STEAL MY COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE CHINA, NO DOUBT! THAT'S WHY I YELLED SO LOUDLY THAT IT ATTRACTED YOUR ATTENTION!
THE ONLY THING IS, HE LOOKS LIKE THAT LITTLE PAL OF PLASTIC MAN'S--WOOZY WINKS!
INDEED HE DOES LOOK LIKE MY VALUED FRIEND, MR. WINKS! A SKILFUL DISGUISE, VERILY! BUT NOTICE--HE CANNOT IMITATE THE NOBLE, INTELLIGENT EXPRESSION OF WOOZY!
PLAS! YOU--YOU DON'T MEAN YOU REFUSE TO IDENTIFY ME?
BAH! TAKE THE IMPOSTER TO JAIL! SIR, YOU CAN DO A GREAT SERVICE BY HELPING TO PROSECUTE AND PUNISH THAT SORRY LITTLE SNEAK!
AND DON'T THINK I WON'T DO IT, SIR! THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS!
AS THE POLICE DRAG WOOZY AWAY FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD....
HERE'S WISHBONE'S APARTMENT BUILDING! UP TO HIS ROOMS, QUICKLY!
WELL, WELL, WELL! THIS IS A SURPRISE!
AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW THE FIGURE WOULD BRING US HERE--COMPLETE WITH PLENTY OF DOUGH TAKEN FROM THE NOVEL NOVELTY WORKS!
VERY CLEVER, MY DEAR! BUT WAS IT PRUDENT TO COME TO MY PLACE? THE POLICE JUST LEFT HERE, WITH---
WE SAW THEM GO, WISHBONE! AND I TOLD YOU WE'D COUNT THE CASH HERE!
HOW SWIFTLY YOU COUNT, FAIR ONE!
THAT'S ONE OF THE OTHER REASONS THEY CALL ME THE FIGURE! I MAKE THIS CHUNK OUT AS JUST ENOUGH TO---
---COVER YOUR BAIL BOND AND LET ME OUT! NOW, MAYBE THE WAY YOU HELPED THE COPS WILL CONVINCE THEM YOU'RE HARMLESS! BETTER LEAVE TOWN, WISHBONE!
LEAVE TOWN? BUT WHAT ABOUT MY RACKET ORGANIZATION?

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT I---THE FIGURE--- WILL BOSS THE BUNCH FROM NOW ON?
OH, THAT ONE TIME WILL BE QUITE SUFFICIENT! YOU MAKE EVERYTHING CLEAR!
BY THE WAY, WISHBONE, THE COPS ARE GONE! WHY NOT TAKE OFF THAT SILLY RIG YOU'RE WEARING?
WHY NOT, INDEED? IT IS A SILLY RIG---
SNAP
SO I'LL REVEAL MYSELF AS I AM!
PLASTIC MAN!! WHAT HAPPENED TO WISHBONE?
OH, THAT! YOU SEE, I SUSPECTED HIM, BUT WASN'T SURE! AND SO---
YOU'RE A SORT OF QUICK GUY WITH FIGURES, YOURSELF!
I LET THE POLICE THINK MY ASSISTANT, WOOZY WINKS, WAS A CROOK! AND WISH BONE WENT TO THE STATION TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST HIM---
I GET IT! AND YOU STAYED HERE TO MAKE OFF LIKE WISHBONE!
PRECISELY, MY DEAR! HOW RAPIDLY YOU CATCH ON!
AND WHILE YOU'VE BEEN TALKING, I'VE FIGURED OUT A WAY TO DISPOSE OF YOU! QUICK, BOYS, LOCK THE DOOR!


I'LL FASTEN THE WINDOW! NOW, NOT EVEN PLASTIC MAN CAN FIND A CRACK TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE!
BUT I WOULDN'T DREAM OF RUNNING AWAY FROM HERE UNTIL WE SETTLE THIS!
YOU BET WE'LL SETTLE THIS!! JUMP HIM, MEN!
WE'LL TEAR HIM DOWN INTO TAGS!
OWWW!
CRASH!
DEAR ME, EVERYBODY I FIGHT SEEMS TO BE SO CLUMSY!
YOW! I HURT MY HEAD!
LET ME ADMINISTER AN ANAESTHETIC!
I'M GETTING OUTA HERE---
DON'T YOU FORGET THAT WE'RE LOCKED IN HERE?
NOW HE'S ASLEEP, TOO!
BUT I'M WIDE AWAKE, PLASTIC MAN! MY FRIENDS KEPT YOU BUSY FOR JUST THE FEW SECONDS I NEEDED!
THAT LOOKS LIKE A VULCANIZER!
WHEN I HEARD I MIGHT HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU, I GOT MYSELF ONE! HERE'S WHERE I MAKE A BLOWOUT PATCH OUT OF YOU!
6


AND NOW--- WHERE ARE YOU?
UNDER HERE!
OKAY, I'LL JUST SPREAD YOU OUT ON THE FLOOR!
WHO NUDGED ME? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
THIS LITTLE INSTRUMENT!
OKAY, YOU WIN! BUT LISTEN--- CAN'T WE FIGURE SOME WAY TO BE FRIENDS?
EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A TELEPHONE CALL TO MAKE-- TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS!
LATER...
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COOPERATION, PLASTIC MAN! ANY FAVOR WE CAN DO YOU---
OH, YES, CAPTAIN! YOU'RE HOLDING MY FRIEND, WOOZY WINKS, IN A CELL! PLEASE DROP THE CHARGES AND RELEASE HIM!
BUT PLAS--- SUPPOSE THE FIGURE HAD VULCANIZED YOU? WISHBONE WOULD BE FREE, AND I'D BE IN JAIL! WHAT THEN?
A NEW ERA WOULD DAWN, WOOZY! YOU'D HAVE TO FIGURE YOUR OWN WAY OUT OF A JAM!
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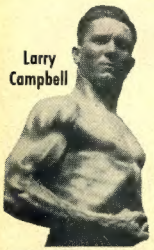

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